

WSM, April 11, 1948
Representative Albert Gore

Good Morning, Friends:

John L. Lewis, one of our national pests, has been ordered into court tomorrow to show cause why he should not be cited for contempt. The judge before whom this dictator of the United Mine Workers Union is cited to appear ~~before~~ is Judge T. Alan Goldsboroth, the same judge who about a year and a half ago slapped a heavy fine upon Mr. Lewis and his union for contempt.

The coal miners are again out on strike and the coal shortage is hourly becoming more serious. ~~It has already become so serious that one-half of the coal burning railroad service has been stopped.~~ Within a few days steam plants across the country generating power for cities, for hospitals, for private enterprise, for rural electrification will have to stop.

(Here) Attorney General Clark says that Mr. Lewis and his union are again in contempt of court because Mr. Lewis and his union have ignored a court order to stop the strike and get the miners back to work. There are many indications that this will be a long, drawn out legal battle.

It seems fair to assume from John Lewis' testimony that he wants to test the constitutionality of the Taft-Hartley law and break down its administration if possible.

(Here) The immediate question is what to do in the meantime. Without coal, steel cannot be made; ^{Indeed!} without coal, our whole industrial economy will just about be paralyzed.

It must, indeed, be galling to the ^{gargantuan} ~~gargantuan~~ ego of Mr. Lewis to be ^{no more than} hailed into court before just a mortal man with ^{about} ~~a~~ robe of justice draped ~~around~~ his shoulders. One gets the impression that it is quite exasperating

to Boss Lewis to come to the unfortunate pass where he is looked upon as just another man before the law.

Disappointing though are the delays and slow processes of the courts in such an emergency as this, the American people must be pleased to see this home grown dictator hailed into a court of law and justice.

Early in the week,

The President signed the European Recovery legislation into the law of the land and appointed as head administrator of the program Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, who, as was demonstrated by the very quick confirmation given him by the United States Senate, holds the confidence of leaders of both political parties.

I do not know Mr. Hoffman but those who know him tell me that he combines not only recognized administrative ability with progressive business *mindness,* ~~might~~, but that he has those strategic supporters in the government, including Senator Vandenberg^{erg}, who it is reported is his close friend, who can do much to insure the success of the program.

It is significant to note that Mr. Hoffman is cataloged as a Republican. I say it is significant to note this not because of its partisan political significance because Mr. Hoffman is not politically significant, in a partisan ~~pense~~. What I mean to say is that it illustrates dramatically the bi-partisan concept of American foreign policy and particularly of the European Recovery Program. The whole bi-partisan development of the European Recovery Program, including the appointment of Mr. Hoffman, punctuates the dramatic fact that America is reaching diplomatic maturity under the stress of her world leadership responsibility.

It was Just about ten years ago that Hitler annexed Austria. It is just about ten years ago now that the Sudeten Germany^s insisted with Hitler's backing upon autonomy within Czecho-Slovakia. America was divided at that time and remained divided until Pearl Harbor unified us. But the fantastic ^{adly} fatal intervening ten years has, it seems at long last, brought America to the full

realization of her prestige and power and influence upon world affairs and, moreover, has brought us, both ~~as~~ Republicans and Democrats, to realize that in unity there is strength and that ⁱⁿ a show of weakness and indecision on the part of America has been ^{found} at least partially the cause of two disastrous world wars. Yes, dark as the war clouds loom today, this diplomatic growing up of America, this ability of the two political parties to work together, forged by and in the sentiments and understanding of the American people, provides a silver lining.